



**Comments by Ann Gardner**

**Re: City Council Agenda Items #11 and #12 (City Hall/Town Hall Project Design)**

on behalf of: Ann Gardner and the persons listed below

Mayor Corti and Councilmembers:

I am submitting these comments on behalf of myself as well as those whose names are listed below.

The Del Mar Sandpiper recently published an article I wrote, "The Wright Stuff," highlighting Del Mar's strong heritage of midcentury modern architecture, and its relevance as we consider the appropriate design for our new Town Hall/City Hall project.

Early comments on the new City Hall design seemed focused on integrating the architecture of the Library, St. Peter's Church and the Stratford Court buildings. Limiting our perspective to only that aspect of our architectural heritage overlooks the freedom in design that took root in residential Del Mar midcentury, influencing the preservation of the Del Mar environment, our relationship to the beach and ocean and the unique sense of community that is reflected in our Community Plan.

Del Mar is enriched by the presence of many homes designed by then new and now renowned architects who broke away from traditional styles to design homes that respected the environment, satisfied the client and fit the budget.

It was post WWII and according to Modern San Diego, an online resource for modern design and architecture in San Diego County, John Lloyd Wright and Ray Jung were the only architects living in Del Mar. By the late '50s and early '60s there were 35 architects living and working here, almost all influenced by the legacy of John's father, Frank Lloyd Wright. Once they got uphill from old Highway 101 with its bumper to bumper traffic and gas stations, the newcomers fell in love with the terrain and spectacular ocean views, the then affordable housing for young families, and the nearby elementary school. They designed homes that fit into the hillside terrain. The early architectural pioneers, besides Wright and Jung,

were Hannis Therkelsen, Herb Turner, Robert Jones, Don Schoell, Gene Geritz, Art Allard and Joe Gerber to name a few. The Modern San Diego website features a very long list of the historic Del Mar buildings designed by these pioneers ([www.modernsandiego.com](http://www.modernsandiego.com)), and a few examples of these buildings are shown in photos below, along with a news article from 1954 highlighting Del Mar's architecture.

John Wright sat on Del Mar's first Planning Commission and Schoell (both supported incorporating as a City in 1959) took that seat when Wright retired. Schoell was instrumental in preventing restaurant development on what is now Seagrove Park at the end of 15th Street stressing how critical it was to preserve Del Mar's visual connection to the ocean. Many of these names appear on the Community Plan plaque at the Park.

The Library and St. Peter's Church are wonderful buildings for their time and important to preserve, but they are not the only Del Mar buildings that could be reflected in our new place of community concourse.

We hope the Council will consider this rich history of modern architecture, and all that it represents in terms of Del Mar's identity, including its deep connection to our unique environment, in giving direction as to the design of the new Town Hall/City Hall project.

Submitted by Ann Gardner

on behalf of:

Jeff Barnouw

Bud Emerson

Nancy Fisher

Ann Gardner

Shirley King

Art Olson

Betty Wheeler

## HOMES IN DEL MAR DESIGNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VIEW

### Rugged Terrain Offers Challenge To Architects

By W. D. JOHNSTON

To some it is the domain of Don Diego and the glitter, the noise and the crowds of the San Diego County Fair. And to horse players throughout the country it's the initials in the racing form that signify the friendly little track that Bing Crosby built.

But to its more than 2,000 residents Del Mar is a place with a view.

#### From Palomar To Catalina

Typical of these is John A. Shannon who cruised through the area five years ago and fell in love with a lot on the lofty crest which forms Del Mar's eastern boundary.

He bought the lot for a paltry \$200 flit's worth more than 20 times that now. Last year he retired, moved down from Sacramento and with his own hands built a home with a view that extends from Mount Palomar to Catalina Island.

Variety is the keynote in the styling of Del Mar homes. Elizabethan, Spanish and modern and traditional ranch style homes live in perfect harmony on its steep slopes. But all have one thing in common. They are designed to take full advantage of the view.

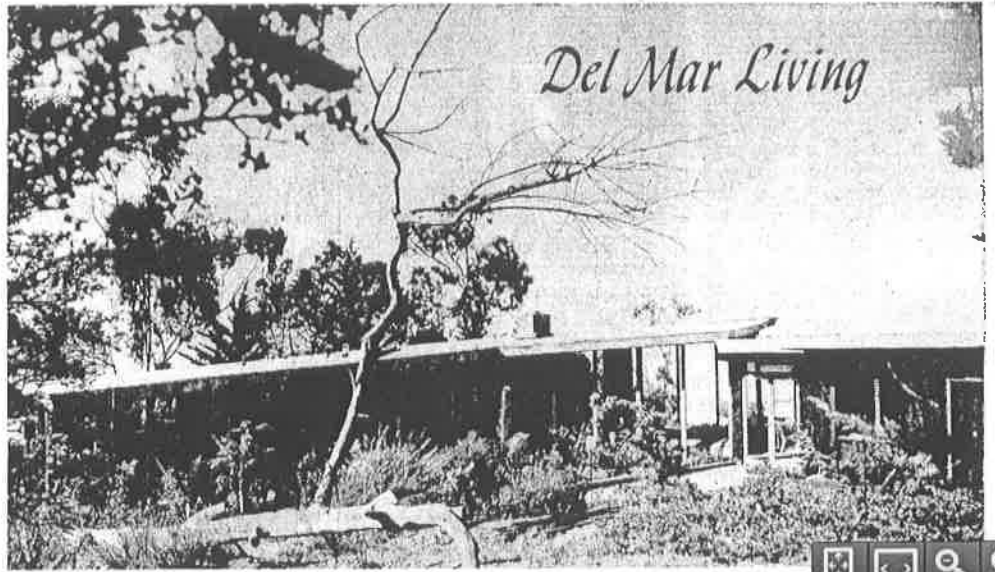
#### Challenge To Architects

The rugged terrain with its peaks and deep gullies offers a unique challenge to architects and designers. And this may explain why so many architects have chosen Del Mar for their own homes.

Perhaps the best known of these is John Lloyd Wright, brother of the famous Frank Lloyd Wright, whose ship-like home nestles unobtrusively in a deep hillside canyon.

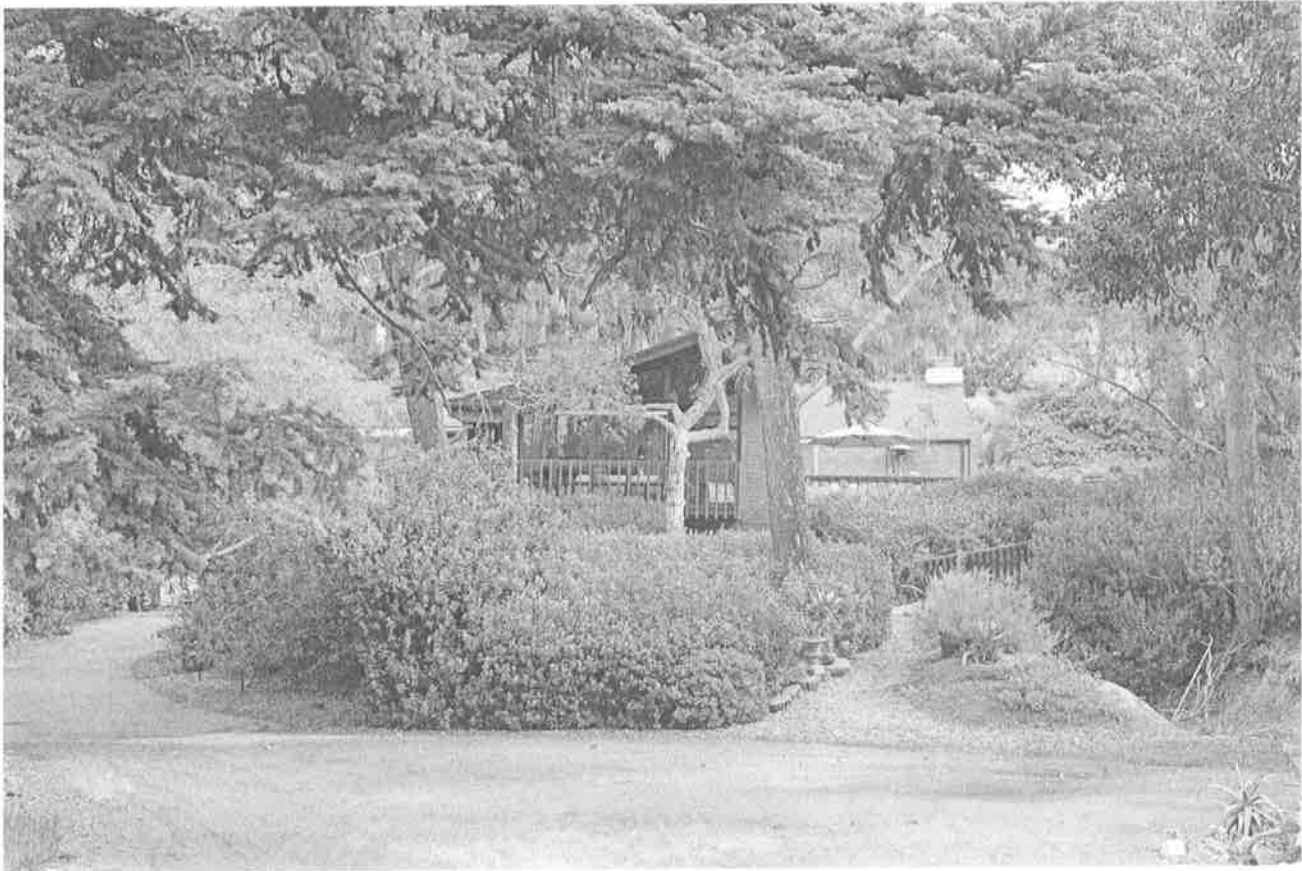
Del Mar's winding streets—to the uninhabited the product of a madman's nightmare—add further to the charm of this hillside community.

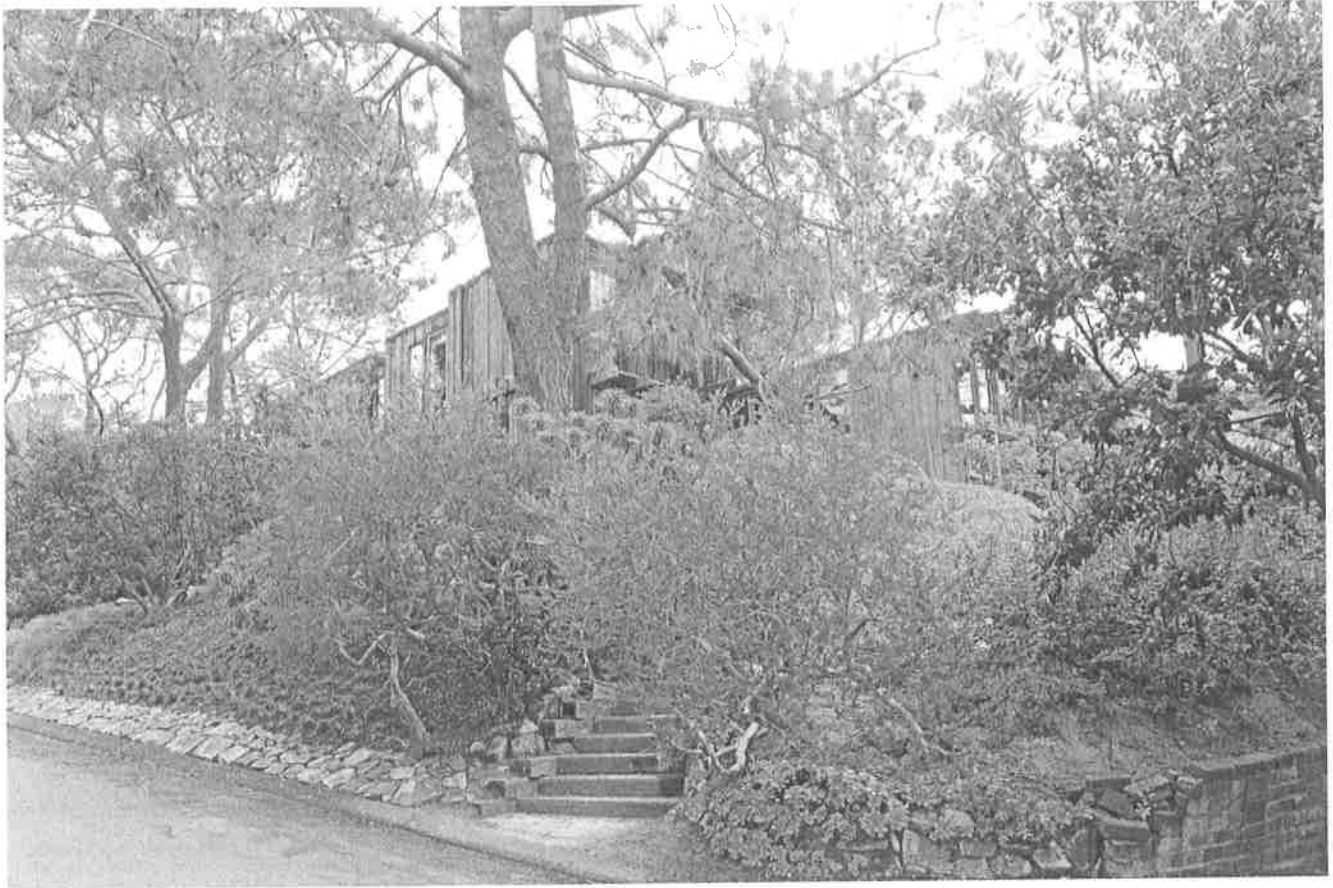
In contrast to the hillside homes are the beach cottages which line Del Mar's ocean front. Most of these are in (Continued on Page 11, Col. 1)



Typifying the desire for a view in Del Mar homes is the sea-through living room in the center of "Serpent's Wing," the home of Joseph [Name] and designer. The Kowalskis have a choice of watching the ocean breakers or looking out upon their own garden patio.—San Diego Union photo by Les Doherty







Photos courtesy of Del Mar Sandpiper / Bill Morris, photographer